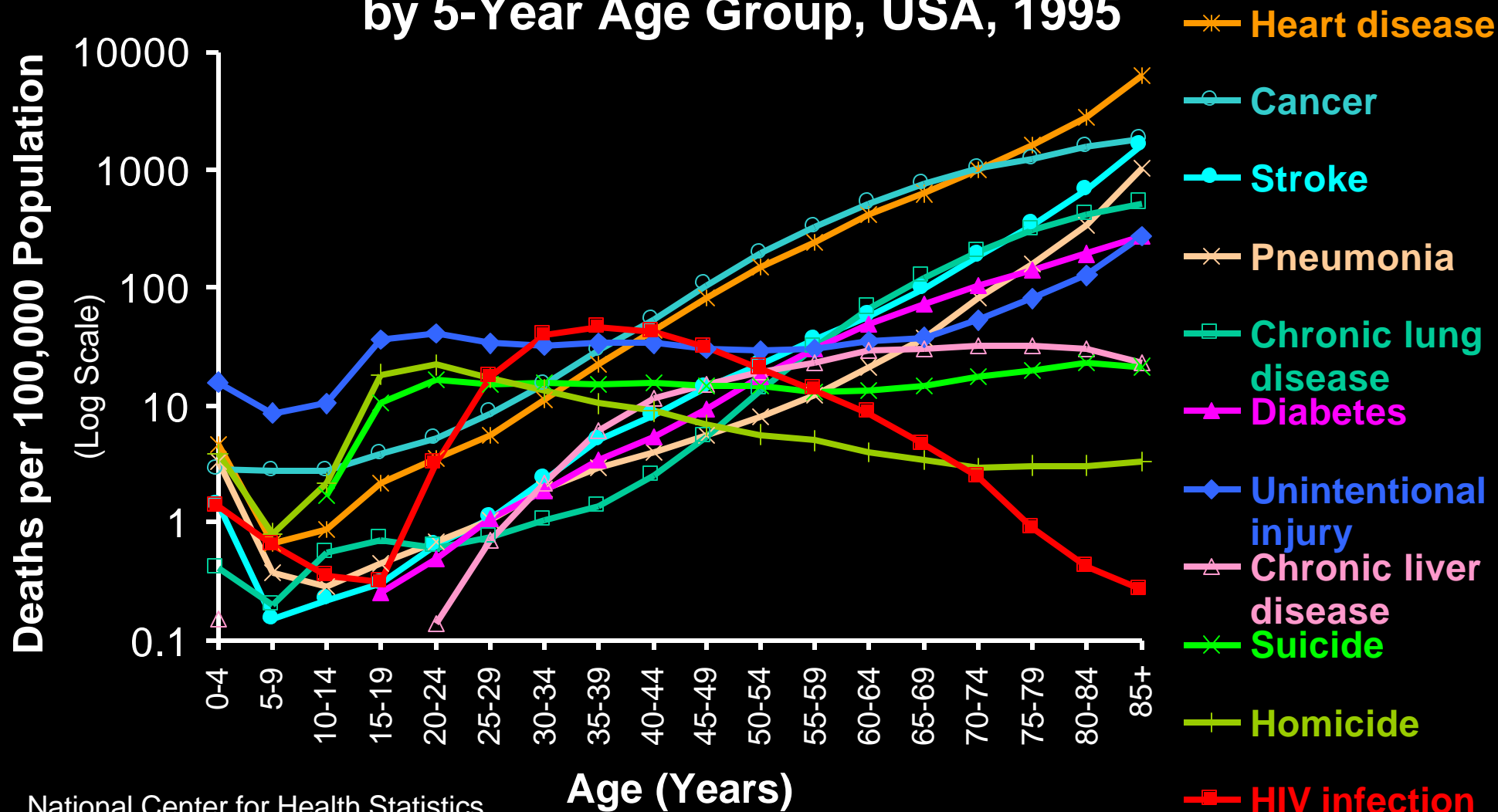


# Rates of Death from Leading Causes, by 5-Year Age Group, USA, 1995



National Center for Health Statistics  
National Vital Statistics System

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Using a logarithmic scale on the vertical axis, this slide shows age-specific death rates in 1995, when the overall rate of death from HIV infection was at its peak. The HIV death rate is higher in early childhood than in later childhood because of HIV transmission from mother to child around the time of birth.

Although the HIV death rate is at a low point at ages 15-19, much HIV transmission may occur among teenagers that does not result in death until several years later. The HIV death rate rises steeply during ages 20-29, reflecting HIV infections acquired through sexual activity and drug abuse in the teenage and early adult years. It reaches a peak of 46 per 100,000 population at ages 35-39 years and thereafter decreases with age. In 1995, unintentional injury was the leading cause of death among persons under 30 years old, but HIV infection was the leading cause of death in age groups 30-34 years and 35-39 years. HIV was the third leading cause of death at ages 40-44 years, following cancer and heart disease.